

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. The imbalance of their decision is emphasized by their refusal to air Ted Koppel's Nightline reading of the names of the soldiers lost in Iraq. What greater public service can a company offer than honor those who have died while serving their country.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, without proper government oversight, we see and hear what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.

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